(b) if so, the salient details thereof, indicating the details of authorities entrusted with the task of monitoring the frequencies and quality of calibration and certifications thereof;

(c) the penalty prescribed, if any, for ingnoring the need of calibration; and

(d) the instances of detection of failure of functioning of hospital equipments due to their not-calibrating and penalty imposed, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) All the costly equipments installed in various operation theatres and laboratories of hospitals are maintained through Open Tender by placing them under Annual Maintenance Contact (AMC). Calibration and certification is done by the concerned authorized agent as and when required. When the machine is out of order proportionate deduction is made from Annual Maintenance Contract. No complaints have been received from the user departments regarding maintenance of the machines as such.

Infants death due to incubator fire

†623.SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the incidents that took place in a hospital in Patiala in which five infants died and another five were badly charred due to the fire caught in the incubator; and

(b) if so, the steps to be taken by the Union Government in order to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As reported by the Government of Punjab, a fire broke out on 31.1.2009 at about 4.30 A.M. in the Nursery of Gynaecology Ward of Rajindra Hospital, Patiala. Five new born babies kept in the Phototherapy Unit died and five babies were rescued. In this connection a judicial inquiry has been instituted.

However, in so far as Central Government hospitals in Delhi namely Safdarjung, Dr. RML Hospital and Lady Harding Medical College & Associated hospitals are concerned, no such incident has happened. Safety measures such as replacement of old equipments especially open care warmers and incubators with new ones are undertaken as and when required. Periodic inspections are carried out by the Engineers of the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) in Nurseries of these hospitals to check short circuits. Smoke detection and fire extinguishers are also kept in working conditions to meet any untoward such incidents.

Financial aid to NGOs in Maharashtra

624. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government has provided any financial assistance to the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for implementation of health related schemes in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the amount of financial assistance provided, during the last three years; NGO-wise;

(c) whether Government has reviewed the functioning of these NGOs;

(d) if so, the names of the NGOs in respect of whom shortcomings have been noticed; and

(e) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India provides Grant-in-aid to State Government for Health related activities under Mother NGG/Service NGO schemes. The State Government in turn provides the same to NGOs.

(b) As per the information provided by the State Government of Maharashtra, the grant-in-aid released to various organizations under Mother NGO/Service NGO Schemes, is as under.

2005-06	=	Rs.21.31 lakh
2006-07	=	Rs. 168 lakh
2007-08	=	Rs. 145 lakh
2008-09 (up to Dec. 08)	=	Rs.281 lakh

(c) to (e) Under the guidelines of the Mother NGO/Service NGO Schemes, the review and corrective action is done by the respective State Governments.

Shortage of life saving drugs

†625.SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to shortage, life saving drugs are being sold at high prices;

(b) whether any information of stock of sellers of life saving drugs is received from time to time;

(c) the steps being taken by Government for the research of new life saving drugs; and

(d) the amount likely to be spend on the research of new life saving drugs by Government during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per the information received from Department of Pharmaceutical, the Government has not received any report that life saving drugs are being sold at high prices due to shortage. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under Department of Pharmaceuticals monitors the shortage and availability of the drugs in the country and wherever required takes remedial steps for availability of drugs by impressing manufacturers to rush the stocks at the places of shortage.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.